GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6555
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
DOORDARSHAN CHANNELS TO REMOTE AREAS
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether food and fertilizer subsidy are being phased out due to resources crunch, the Government proposed to set aside Rs. 600 crore to take the bouquet of 20 Doordarshan channels to remote areas as drawn to the report captioned `Government plans Rs. 600 crore subsidy to increase Doordarshan reach` appearing in Hindustan Times dated April 4, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this is being done by providing 50 per cent subsidy on KU band decoders;

(c) whether this plan has been discussed by Steering Group on Information Technology in the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the rural people are likely to be benefited by this decision of the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A Sub-Group on `Carriage and Technology` set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in connection with the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan had estimated that for extending Doordarshan coverage to 100 per cent population in terrestrial mode, an expenditure of about Rs. 3456 crores would be required. Through an alternative technology, coverage could be extended to uncovered areas in Ku Band by using direct satellite reception for free to air channels of Doordarshan either directly to Households or through a cable network. Cost of this technology option is estimated to be about Rs. 638 crores.